Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-10 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 ACDA-19 EURE-00 USSS-00 DRC-01 SAJ-01 /143 W 011217

O P 181343Z OCT 73 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3161 INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY PARIS USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJ: GROMYKO MEETING WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT

1. AT THE OUTSET OF VIMONT'S CALL OCTOBER 17 AT MFA TO DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST, GROMYKO REMINDED THE AMBASSADOR OF THE MANY WARNINGS WHICH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN ABOUT THE EXPLOSIVE NATURE OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THESE INCLUDED WARNINGS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING THE LAST DAYS OF SEPTEMBER WHEN THE TWO MET IN THE US.

2. GROMYKO MADE TWO POINTS REGARDING THE SOVIET POSITION: THE SECURITY COUNCIL MUST FIRST OF ALL DECIDE THAT ISRAEL MUST WITHDRAW FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, THEN A CEASE-FIRE CAN BE ARRANGED. GROMYKO CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NO SIGN FROM EITHER THE US OR ISRAEL THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT TOTAL WITHDRAWAL AT THIS TIME. CONSEQUENTLY, THE PROSPECTS FOR A CEASE-FIRE WERE VERY DIM AT THE MOMENT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER UNDERLINED THAT "TOTAL WITHDRAWAL" WAS THE CORE OF THE SOVIET CONFIDENTIAL

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POSITION.

3. VIMONT SAID THAT HE HAD REFERRED TIME AND TIME AGAIN TO RESOLUTION 242 AND THE FRENCH INTERPRETATION OF THAT RESOLUTION. GROMYKO NEVER RESPONDED ONCE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ALONG THESE LINES AND HIMSELF DID NOT MENTION 242 IN HIS REMARKS. GROMYKO SIMPLY CONCENTRATED ON THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION. DUBS

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